

Nachiket Barve: From Commerce Student to Acclaimed Indian Designer

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Born in Mumbai, **Nachiket Barve** initially pursued a Bachelor's in Commerce before following his passion into fashion. He attended the **National Institute of Design (NID)** in Ahmedabad. Later earned a scholarship to study at the **École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (ENSAD)** in Paris. In Paris, he honed his skills with haute couture ateliers, learning craft techniques.

The Birth of a Design Label

Barve launched his eponymous label in 2007 on the **GenNext** platform at **Lakmé Fashion Week**, marking the start of a design journey. Therefore his work blends Indian textile traditions with a global outlook, using colour, structure, and innovative surfaces.

Design Philosophy: Craft, Nature & Functionality

Barve draws inspiration from a variety of sources — nature, architecture, science, and his travels — melding them into functional, emotive clothing. Overall collections often explore surface detail and texture, relying on artisan techniques to bring his creative ideas to life.

Expanding into Couture & Costume Design

Beyond his fashion label, Barve has made a significant impact in costume design. He won the **National Film Award for Best Costume Design** for his work in *Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior*, a film set in a historical era. His dedication to authenticity included extensive research into historical textiles, leather crafts, and even 400-year-old jewellery moulds. Thus weaving together cinematic beauty and cultural accuracy.

Why His Story Matters

- **Bridge Between Worlds:** Barve seamlessly merges traditional Indian craft with modern, global design sensibilities.
- **Sustainable & Thoughtful:** His work often emphasizes slow fashion and the value of crafted techniques.
- **Narrative-Driven Design:** Whether in fashion or film, he uses costume and structure to tell stories — deeply rooted in culture and research.
- **Recognition & Influence:** With awards like the Woolmark Prize and a National Film Award, he exemplifies how Indian designers can achieve both critical acclaim and commercial success.

Nachiket Barve's success story is not just about building a brand — it's about *crafting identity*. Through his design philosophy, global training, and deep respect for artisan techniques. He still continues to shape the future of Indian fashion and costume design.

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